(d) ONGC/MRPL has reported that the economic viability of the high investment requires fiscal incentives and other benefits from the Government of Rajasthan, are required ONGC/MRPL have requested the State Government to consider the required fiscal incentives and support for the viability of huge investments in the Well-head Refinery Project. On receipt of a favourable consideration of the incentive package and other support from the Government of Rajasthan, ONGC/MRPL would be able to draw the road map for development of the Refinery.

(e) and (f) As per Oilfields (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948, royalty on oil & gas production from onland areas is paid to the respective State Governments only.

Fall in prices of petroleum products

†2364. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of petroleum products have reduced in the international market;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of reduction in the prices; and

(c) whether the reduction done in the prices of petrol and diesel in India in past few days is proportionate to the fall in their prices in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Global prices of crude oil and petroleum products since 2004 have remained high and volatile. During 2006-07, international prices of Indian Basket of crude oil reached $75.20 per barrel on 8/8/06 and thereafter declined to $59.15 per barrel on 12/3/07. The International prices of crude oil and petroleum products softened from September '06 onwards. During August '06 to February '07, the prices of petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG have declined by 18.2%, 17.8%, 19.6% and 3.8% respectively. The trend in the international prices of petroleum products since April '06 is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) On the basis of decline in international prices, the prices of petrol and diesel were reduced on 30.11.2006. It was again reduced on 16.2.2007. The reduction was Rs. 2/- per litre and Re. 1/- per litre for petrol and diesel respectively on each occasion (Delhi Price). Based on the refinery transfer price applicable for the month of March '07, the retail selling prices of petrol and diesel are lower than the prevailing international prices.

Statement

Trend in the international oil prices since April 2006

	Crude oil (Indian Basket) $/bbl	Petrol $/bbl	diesel $/bbl	Kerosene $/bbl	LPG $/MT
Apr '06	67.15	80.15	80.97	82.86	429.00
May '06	67.29	86.17	81.18	82.71	470.00
June '06	66.80	82.03	82.90	83.31	470.00
July '06	71.36	84.47	83.57	85.02	502.00
Aug '06	70.84	80.36	82.72	86.11	547.00
Sept '06	61.04	65.18	72.42	77.31	561.20
Oct '06	57.27	61.21	68.54	71.53	483.00
Nov '06	57.80	62.14	67.80	71.56	462.00
Dec '06	60.35	67.03	66.90	74.72	489.00
Jan '07	52.53	60.31	63.00	66.76	548.00
Feb '07	56.53	65.73	67.96	69.27	526.00
Average April '06 to Feb '07	62.67	72.34	74.47	77.49	499.06

Notes:

— The Composition of Indian Basket of Crude represents Average of Oman & Dubai for sour grades and Brent (Dated) for sweet grade in the ratio of 59.8:40.2 for year 2006-07, 58:42 for the year 2005-06 and 57:43 for the prior period.

— Price of kerosene is for Arab Gulf Market.

— LPG Price is saudi aramco CP based on 60:40 butane/propane ratio.

— Price of Petrol is 92 RON unleaded for Singapore Market.

— Price of Diesel is for 0.5% Sulphur for Arab Gulf Market.

— The above prices are taken from IOC-IT Daily Oil Market Report.